

SCOTTISH ALLIANCE AGAINST THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT

SAAB
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12 January 1995

NOTICE OF CONFERENCE 11 FEB, 10:30AM, STRATHCLYDE UNI, JOHN ST,
GLASGOW &
DEMO 25 FEBRUARY, 12 MIDDAY, GEORGE SQUARE, GLASGOW.

Dear Friends,

This is a letter to inform you of the oncoming activities of the Scottish Alliance Against the Criminal Justice Act.

The Alliance was formed by 20 different groups and organisations, consisting of socialists, environmentalists, Scottish nationalists, anarchists and community activists, in late September 1994. Since then, we have been involved in a whole host of activities including two large-scale demonstrations on 18 October (the third reading of the Bill) and 5 November (when the Bill became law).

We are an open and democratic group with weekly meetings which discuss strategies to build the biggest and widest possible opposition and defiance to the CJA. We believe that the campaign against the CJA is one of the key issues of 1995. In time with this, we are launching a number of activities which we are inviting you to participate in.

On 11 February we are holding a conference to bring together all those fighting the CJA in order to fight the Act in Scotland.

The format will be non-delegate based and is open to all who wish to attend. There will be a minor fee to cover the cost.

The conference will also be used to build a large-scale, illegal defiance demo in Glasgow on the 25 February. The purpose will be to support the NO M77 campaign and strengthen / build a broader involvement against the CJA. Also, demanding "Drop The Charges" of those already charged under the CJA and the 7 in Scotland charged under the Public Order Act who organised the first 'defiance demo' on 18 October 1994.

For further information or if you require accommodation / can provide accommodation contact either Nicky McKerrell on 041 636 5140, Andrew Lewis on 041 945 1069, or the number / address at the top of the page.

Below are **proposals** for the format of the conference/gathering of networks. These are by no means definitive and any other ideas or suggestions are welcome.

JAN '95

OPENING PLENARY

Introduction from SAAB with conference greetings from Dave Richards, Strathclyde University, guest speakers from Manchester Earth First!, Edinburgh Unemployed Centre, Anti-Poll Tax Federation and Ayrshire Animal Concern.

(Members of Manchester Earth First! were the first to be arrested under the Criminal Justice Act and the hunt saboteurs from Ayrshire Animal Concern were the first in Scotland, although the others were not arrested under the CJA, the Act has helped to create a new climate of attacks on political protest and so the Scottish Alliance Against the Bill gives its solidarity to those affected by this new situation).

WORKSHOPS

It is proposed that the day should concentrate on practical workshops designed to further the work of the campaign against the CJA.

1. NVDA Workshop

Faslane Peace Campers

Glasgow Earth First! / NO M77 Campaign

Hunt saboteurs

For information on the latest situation and campaigning ideas.

(This could perhaps be used as a practical workshop to go over/plan oncoming events at Pollok Park)

2. Women's Resistance In The Communities

Alice Sheridan (Anti-Poll Tax Federation)

Sylvia Pye (Parkside Pit Occupation)

Betty Heathfield (Women Against Pit Closures)

(To relate experiences of women organising resistance in their communities - this could result in a women's network against the Act)

3. Resistance In The Unions

Offshore Interim Liaison Committee, OILC

Fire Brigade Union, FBU

Yarrows ship builders

(This workshop could have a dual purpose; firstly to relate previous experiences of trade union struggle in relation to the CJA had it been in existence when these unions took action, and then to look into the possibility of a trade union network against the CJA)

4. Propaganda Workshop

Paul Holleran (Scottish Chair National Union of Journalists, NUJ)

Tammy Sheridan (Anti-Poll Tax Federation)

(The object of this workshop is to look at ways to further the campaign against the CJA by use of the media ie preparing press releases, organising actions that gain publicity / have maximum impact, and presentation of literature ie newsletters, leaflets and posters).

5. Youth Workshop

Freedom Network

Advance Party

Youth Against Racism in Europe, YRE

Scottish Youth Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, SYCND

(Relating directly to youth and the effect of the CJA on youth culture and youth activities, particularly towards raves, festivals, concerts and youth campaigns of a political nature).

6. Legal Update Workshop

Muir Society

Scottish Council for Civil Liberties, SCCL

Liberty

(Question and answer session in order to clue ourselves up, in more depth, on the legal aspects of the CJA. Perhaps look into ways of making the details of the CJA more widely available)

CLOSING PLENARY

(The purpose of the closing plenary is to tie up any loose ends, have a general discussion on the day's work, adopt a statement of common aims and objectives and sum up with a platform of guest speakers).

and after

EVENING EVENT/FUND RAISER/DISCO/RAVE-UP/BAND (to be confirmed)

and after that

SUNDAY 12th February 1995 - ACTION AT POLLOK PARK, 12 midday.

(also to be confirmed)

All groups opposed to the CJA who wish to put on a workshop or a stall are welcome.

If you can accommodate anyone who may have to travel to get to the conference or if you are seeking accommodation please get in touch as soon as possible, thank you.